

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Essential Preoperative COVID Test Information for Patients Having Surgical Procedures Requiring General Anaesthesia, Regional Anaesthesia and Sedation

As you are having a day surgery operation we want to keep you safe. If you have an operation whilst you have a COVID infection, your outcomes may be affected. This is particularly important if you are unvaccinated. We therefore need you to undertake a **free lateral flow device test, at home, 48-72 hours before your surgery** for your own safety and that of our staff. We then recommend that you minimise your exposure to others between the test and your procedure.

You need to order these **free** tests yourself via the **gov.uk** website **as soon as** you are told that you require an operation. You can also use the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

**If you do not have access to the internet, tests can be ordered by phone by calling 119**

Unfortunately, the government does not allow hospitals to give these out so you need to order these yourself. You will need to work through the series of steps described below. Please enlist the assistance of a friend or relative if you are having difficulties.

### How to order a lateral flow test device from gov.uk

Type into your search engine	'gov uk order lateral flow test' or similar phrase
Enter the gov.uk website	You are eligible to order a lateral flow test as you are coming into hospital for surgery or a procedure
Sign into your account or create one if you do not have one. You can reset your password if you have forgotten it.	

Where do you live	England
Do you have coronavirus symptoms	No (if you do have symptoms please follow government guidelines)
Why do you need a test	<i>You have been asked to take a test by a doctor, or healthcare professional, or you are eligible for COVID-19 treatments or you are being admitted to hospital</i>
Tell us more about why you need a test	<i>Your doctor, or healthcare professional, has asked you to take a test because you are being admitted to hospital for a procedure or treatment</i>
Which hospital are you being admitted to?	Torbay
Check your details	
Confirm the declaration and place order	
48-72 hours before your operation, take your test and minimise exposure to others	

When you take your test, you will then need to upload the result of your lateral flow test to the government website which will generate an e-mail confirmation.

**If you do not have access to the internet, tests can be reported by phone by calling 119**

**We need you to bring this confirmation of your negative test result when you attend on the day of surgery. Please see below how to do this:**

#### **How to report a test on the gov.uk website**

Type into your search engine	'gov uk report COVID test' or similar phrase
Enter the gov.uk website	
Sign into your account or create one if you don't have one. You can reset your password if you have forgotten it.	
Who are you reporting for?	Myself
Did you take this test for your job?	No
Tell us why you took this test?	Another reason: (to follow NHS advice)
When was this test taken?	Select date
What is the test strip number?	Scan QR code on test strip OR Enter test strip number manually
Text and email confirmation for this test result	Yes
Check your details	
Confirm the result	Positive- please inform the hospital immediately on 01803 655508 Negative-please bring the result with you Uncertain-please re test
You should receive a text message or e mail confirming the result shortly after <b>IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU BRING THIS WITH YOU ON THE DAY OF SURGERY</b>	

If you test positive it is vital that you contact us on the following number:

Torbay Hospital Day Surgery Unit: 01803 655508 Opening hours 08:00-18:00

In summary, to have your procedure at Torbay Hospital you need to:

1. Order a lateral flow test (via the internet or by phone by calling 119)
2. Take a lateral flow test
3. Report the test (via the internet or by phone by calling 119)
4. Bring in confirmation on the day of surgery

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For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.